



CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE

ACCEPTED

MEMBERS

William Zaskey, Chairman
Robert Zygarowski, Vice-Chairman
James Tillotson
George Moreau
Dino Brunetti
Fred Krampits
Ronald Belair

MINUTES
March 16, 2010

The following are the minutes of a public hearing held Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

Members Present Zaskey, Zygarowski, Tillotson, Krampits, Belair

Not Present Moreau, Brunetti

Also Present Councilor LaFlamme, Councilor Swider, Councilor McLellan, Daniel Garvey (Associate City Solicitor), Ernest LaFlamme (Treasurer), Stanley Iwanicki (Assessor), Laura McCarthy, (Assessor), Virginia Robak (Assessor), Mike Lareau (Senior Systems Engineer), Ken Krech (IT Director)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

ITEM #1

ORDERED THAT THE SUM FOF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$350,000.00) BE AND HEREBY IS APPROPRIATED TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED ACCOUNT:

ASSESSORS SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR UPDATE FOR REVALUATION (ACCT # 11410004-614001)

SAID AMOUNT IS TO BE TAKEN FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE FUND BALANCE RESERED FOR EXTRAORDIANRY/UNFORESEEN EXPENDITURES (OVERLAY SURPLUS)

Laura McCarthy stated we have \$350,000.00 in our overlay account to cover our exemptions and abatements. There has been a large amount of telephone company cases that have been tied up in court which has caused communities to keep a lot more money in their overlay accounts. In reviewing the cases and consulting with the DOR we determined we could release money because of the MCI cases. This is how we released \$850,000.00 from it. We needed money for the coming year for our re-evaluation. An appraisal firm is hired to assist us with the re-evaluation. We have worked through the years to reduce our reliance on the Appraisal Firm, so we are doing more and contracting for them to do less. We've reduced the cost as much as possible.

Councilor Tillotson stated that you have substantially reduced the cost over a three period. Is there someway we can get the state to make it a little less complicated. Seems to me there's a lot of red tape that you have to go through. What about the MIS Department they were called here tonight. Councilor McLellan responded I wanted them here to see if there was anything overlapping.

Mike Lareau stated that we provide the Assessors with the tools. We by no means have the expertise to calculate the values.

Councilor McLellan questioned would it be beneficial for us as a city to hire someone from these firms full time? Laura McCarthy responded I would estimate that the employee would have an annual salary of around \$100,000.00 a year and we don't need this service year round.

Councilor Zaskey questioned so as Assessors you are content with our IT Department, in their providing you with these services? Laura McCarthy responded yes, they do a fantastic job in terms of making sure the network is up and running and assisting us when there are changeovers in some of the software.

Councilor Swider stated that you belong to the Assessors Association; would it be possible to get some kind of reform sent through the House and Senate to increase the number of years? We must be hurting other Cities and Towns spending money on re-evaluation.

Committee Vote: 5-0 approved.

ITEM #2

Minutes – Minutes March 1, 2010. Tillotson motion to accept. Belair 2nd the motion

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.